

Message Text

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14-12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 232220Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8852

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 5415

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EAIR ETRN BB AC

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN INTENTIONS REGARDING LIAT

REF: A BRIDGETOWN 267, B BRIDGETOWN 79

1. EMBOFFS DURING A CONVERSATION WITH MARIANO TIRADO, CHIEF
TRANSPORT DEPT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INQUIRED ABOUT
VENEZUELAN INTENTIONS REGARDING THE SAVING OF LIAT AIRLINE.

2. TIRADO EXPLAINED THAT THE GOV, THROUGH ITS FULLY-OWNED BANCO
INDUSTRIAL, LOANED LIAT \$5 MILLION AT 12PERCENT INTEREST FOR
A SHORT-UNSPECIFIED TIME. LIAT WAS UNABLE TO PAY THE SUM BACK
AND REQUESTED EXTENSION AT LOWER INTEREST RATE, WHICH WAS GRANTED.

3. TIRADO STATED THAT LIAT RECENTLY REQUESTED ANOTHER \$10
MILLION BUT THAT IN HIS OPINION VENEZUELA SHOULD NOT
GRANT THIS LOAN SINCE IT WOULD BE MONEY WASTED.
ACCORDING TO TIRADO, THE GOV HAS NO INTEREST IN BUYING
OR MANAGING THE AIRLINE.

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4. TIRADO FEELS THAT THE SITUATION IN THE CARIBBEAN IS

CRITICAL AS FAR AS AIR TRANSPORT IS CONCERNED. HE CITED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR JAMAICA, THE NON-IATA INTERNATIONAL CARIBBEAN AIRWAYS, WHICH IS CAUSING SERIOUS COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS FOR VIASA, ALM'S COMPEITION WITH VENEZUELAN TO ARUBA AND CURACO, AND THE LACK OF INTER-ISLAND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. IN FACT, HE FEELS THAT THESE ISLANDS SHOULD HAVE SUCH FACILITIES AND VERY TENTATIVELY BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF INFORMAL TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVTS OF VENEZUELA, CANADA AND THE US TO SOUND OUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF ESTABLISHING SOME SORT OF SERVICE WHICH WOULDNOT ONLY COVER THE ISLANDS BY UTILIZATION OF VERY SMALL AIRCRAFT BUT WHICH COULD FIT INTO THE SERVICES PRESENTLY PROVIDED BY THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES' INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS.

5. VENEZUELA HAS ALREADY MADE SOME INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN VIASA AND THE PRINCIPALLY DOMESTIC CARRIER LAV, WHICH ALSO SERVES ARUBA, CURACAO AND TRINIDAD, BY WHICH VIASA WILL HANDLE LAV'S BUSINESS IN CURACAO AND LAV WILL BE VIASA'S AGENT IN PORT OF SPAIN.
SHLAUDEMAN

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